

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

STAR LAKE CANAL PORT NECHES, TEXAS

JUNE, 2012



U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6

THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA)
SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS COMMITTED
TO PROMOTING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AGENCY.

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT.

EPA'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE
STAR LAKE CANAL
ARE DESIGNED TO

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL AFFECT THEM,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE RESPONSES UNDER CONSIDERATION TO REMEDY THESE ISSUES, AND

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE REMEDY.

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Section 1.0

Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Star Lake Canal Site and EPA and to encourage community involvement in site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses Star Lake Canal Site's relationship to the community and EPA (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents EPA's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. EPA's Regional Office will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this Plan.

Section 2.0

Capsule Site Description

2.1 Site History

Port Neches, TX, was formally an Atakapa Indian village. It was once referred to as Grigsby Bluff. It was named after the Grisby family whom established a plantation and boat landing on the bluff above the Neches River in 1837. In 1862, the Confederate Army built Fort Grigsby to block Union forces and supply lines attempting to use the Neches River as a supply route. The area was noted for its rice and orange agriculture use until 1902 when the Central Asphalt Company established a plant on the bluff above the Neches River. Soon after a railroad station was established and Port Neches was born. The area swiftly became industrialized with the emergence of the Texas Company (later Texaco) and other refineries and oil related industries and with the incorporation of Port Neches in 1927. World War II helped with this transition as a 100,000 ton butadiene plant was built in the area. As the area expanded, a need for waste water removal grew. In 1948, the Star Lake Canal was constructed as an industrial wastewater and storm water outfall for various industrial companies.

2.2 Site Description/Location

The Star Lake Canal Superfund Site is located in Port Neches, Texas, an industrial city adjacent to the Neches River in East Texas in the center of the

Beaumont-Orange-Port Arthur Golden Triangle. The Star Lake Canal confluent with the Jefferson Canal in an area between State Highway 366 and Sara Jane Road (a.k.a. East Port Neches Avenue, Port Neches Atlantic Highway, and Atlantic Road) at the geographic coordinates of

approximately 29 58 30 north latitude and 93 55 12 west longitude (taken from the Port Arthur North, Texas Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series Map [1993]).

The Site consists of surface water sediments in the Star Lake Canal, Jefferson Canal, and Molasses Bayou. These wetlands are habitats known to be used by State designated threatened species. From the confluence of the Molasses Bayou, Star Lake Canal, and Neches River, surface water flows down the Neches River approximately 3 1/2 miles to Sabine Lake. Sabine Lake is used as a fishery and produces more than one million pounds of fish and shellfish annually. The land use surrounding the Site is industrial, residential, and recreational.

2.3 Site Inspections and Cleanup Activities

The Texas Department of Water Resources inspected the area in 1983 and documented elevated levels of various semi-volatile organic compounds in sediment dredged from the Jefferson Canal. In 1996 and 1998, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) collected sediment samples from Jefferson Canal, Star Lake Canal, and the wetlands bordering Molasses Bayou. The samples were examined for volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, metals and pesticides. Elevated levels of volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds in the sediment were found to extend more than two miles from the site. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in July of 1999.

The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry toured the site in September 1999. During the tour it was noted that the site is not used for recreational use such as fishing and swimming. Local residence confirmed that the area is not used for fishing although bait is caught from the area. Although Star Lake is not used for fishing or recreational use, water from the canal empties into the Neches River which is heavily used for fishing and recreation.

Section 3.0 Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

Port Neches, TX, is an industrial community that houses various refineries and chemical manufacturing facilities. The Neches Rivers provides river and gulf shipping access to these facilities. The area is rich in outdoor recreation. Fishing and hunting are two key attractions as Port Neches is located near the Sabine Lake, a local fishery. The majority of the community members are employed by the industrial companies in the area. The estimated population of Port Neches is approximately 14,452. Other communities in the area include Groves, Nederland, and

Port Arthur.

The local demographics are as follows. The following figures are only estimates.

Ethnicity	Population
White	13,180 (91.2%)
Hispanic	737 (5.1%)
Black	130 (0.9%)
Native American	130 (0.9%)
Vietnamese	87 (0.6%)
Other ethnicity	173 (1.2%)
More than one ethnic group	159 (1.1%)

3.2 History of Community Involvement

There has been limited community involvement at the site due to a lack of interest by the community. Attempts have been made to engage the community through community meetings and fact sheets. Community members do not feel threatened by the site and do not participate in meetings or questionnaires. Please note that the majority of the community members work for the industries that may have created the contamination. Therefore, there may be a level of concern that if community members speak out the threat of losing their job may be at risk.

3.3 Key Community Concerns

Letters were mailed to community members living along the Star Lake Canal to collect community health concerns. Of the over two thousand letters that were mailed out, only two responses were brought forth by the community which stated that there were no health concerns in the area. A community member inquired if the private water wells would be affected by the site. The site is hydro- logically down gradient from the wells and would not pose a threat to the water supply

3.4 Response to Community Concerns

There has not been a response to community concerns as there have not been any concerns raised. EPA will continue to be available and keep the community updated on site related activities.

3.5 Summary of Communication Needs

EPA will continue to inform the community of site activities through the use of fact sheets, website, and occasional community meetings. The EPA will modify any communication needs for the community on a as needed basis to ensure that active and positive participation is available to the community.

Section 4.0 EPA's Community Involvement Program

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote two-way communication between citizens and the EPA and to provide opportunities for meaningful and active involvement by the community in the cleanup process. EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews described earlier; it addresses each issue that was identified as being important to the community.

4.1 The Plan

Issue 1: Keeping the public informed as the EPA and the Principle Responsible Parties (PRP's), work through the Superfund Process. (See Appendix H, The Superfund Process)

Activity 1A: Site Investigation, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

- Objective: The RI results have been submitted to EPA and are under review. June 1, 2012
- Method: Sampling results, finding report.
- Timing: Summer 2012

Activity 1B: PRP's will begin the Feasibility Study (FS) to determine the proposed remediation plan for the site.

- Objective: Porposed Plan

- Method: Interpreting the results from the RI/FS.
- Timing: Fall 2012

Issue 2: Proposed Plan

Activity 2A: A proposed Plan will be developed for the remediation of the site and submitted to the public for comments.

Issue 3: Keeping the public informed on other areas in the process..

Activity 3A: Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC).

- Objective: To provide a primary liaison between the community and the EPA, and to ensure prompt, accurate, and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site. In those instances where EPA's CIC may be unable to provide adequate information (such as on technical issues), inquiries will be directed to the appropriate EPA contact.
- Method: EPA will designate an EPA CIC to handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. The CIC is appointed by the Region 6 headquarters. Bill Little is the EPA CIC assigned to the site. He will work closely with Shawn Ghose, the EPA Remedial Project Manager for the site.
- Timing: The CIC was designated on April, 2012.

Activity 3B: Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries.

- Objective: To provide citizens with current, accurate, easy-to-read, easy-to-understand information about Star Lake Canal.
- Method: Fact sheets will be mailed to all parties on the site mailing list. In addition, copies will be available at the information repository and in various cooperating business locations in the community.
- Timing: EPA will prepare and distribute fact sheets as needed.

Activity 3C: Involve students, parents, teachers through area schools.

- Objective: To educate faculty, students and their parents about the site, to invite and address their concerns regarding it, and to caution students about the site.

- Method: Address school faculty and students through visits and presentations to classroom, faculty, school assembly, or other meetings or events. Additionally, communicate with parents through take-home materials provided to the students and/or by attending and participating in PTA meetings or events.
- Timing: As community concern warrants or at least every year until the site is closed out.

Activity 3D: Provide a toll-free “800 number” for the community to contact EPA.

- Objective: To enable citizens to get the latest information available when they want it, rather than having to wait for a meeting or a fact sheet, and without incurring any cost.
- Method: EPA will activate the 800 number and publish it periodically in the local papers and in all fact sheets.
- Timing: The line is currently operational (1-800-533-3508).

Activity 3E: Maintain a mailing list for the Site.

- Objective: To facilitate the distribution of site-specific information to everyone who needs or wants to be kept informed about the site.
- Method: EPA will create a mailing list that includes all residences adjacent to the site, in known or suspected paths of migration, or those otherwise affected by the site. EPA will also solicit interested parties via fact sheets, newspaper articles, public meetings, public availabilities, etc.
- Timing: EPA will begin working on this mailing list immediately and will review/revise it periodically to keep it current.

Activity 3F: Establish and maintain Information Repositories.

- Objective: To provide a convenient location where residents can go to read and copy official documents and other pertinent information about the site and EPA activities.
- Method: The repository is a reference collection of site information containing the Administrative Record file, other site-specific information, the Community Involvement Plan, information about the Technical Assistance Grant program, and the general Superfund process. The Community Involvement Coordinator will work with a local contact to establish the local repository. This repository will be

accessible to the physically challenged, will have copier facilities, and will be available to residents during normal business hours and at least some evening and/or weekend hours. Additional repositories may also be established, including one at the EPA Region 6 headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

Timing: EPA established the local repository on July 1999 located at the Effie & Wilton Hebert Public Library located at 2025 Merriman, Port Neches, TX, 77651. EPA adds new documents as they become available.

Activity 3G: Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet.

- Objective: To provide key resources for searching and listing both general and specific information about Superfund and hazardous waste issues.
- Method: A Site Status Summary for this site can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf-XX.htm> (where XX = ar, la, nm, ok, or tx). Information about EPA and Superfund can be found at:
 - EPA Headquarters: <http://www.epa.gov>
 - EPA Region 6: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6>
 - EPA Region 6 Superfund Division: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf.htm>The Proposed Plan and the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site will be placed on the internet as they are completed.
- Timing: Site Status Summaries are periodically updated.

Activity 3H: Provide Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) information.

- Objective: To provide resources for community groups to hire technical advisors who can assist them in interpreting technical information about the site.
- Method: EPA will provide information about the TAG program at public meetings and in site fact sheets. EPA will also provide briefing sessions to interested groups if so requested. EPA will provide TAG applications to qualified groups, and will provide assistance to the group in completing the application.
- Timing: EPA will continue to promote TAGs until one is awarded.

Activity 3I: Establish and maintain the Administrative Record.

- Objective: To provide residents with a paper trail of all documents, resources, etc. used by the Regional Project Manager and Site Team in reaching all decisions about the site and its cleanup.
- Method: EPA will provide at least two sets of the Administrative Record for the site, one in the EPA Region 6 offices located at 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas and one located in the local Information Repository near the site.
- Timing: The Administrative Record is opened as soon as site investigation begins and remains open until the last ROD is signed.

Activity3J: Conduct special events.

- Objective: To educate citizens, add a sense of closure, highlight a major event or milestone, recognize significant citizen or PRP activity, etc.
- Method: Examples include: A special topic educational campaign, construction completion party, on-site demolitions, transitions to the next phase, etc.
- Timing:

Issue 4: Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement.

Activity 4A: Hold public meetings.

- Objective: To update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.
- Method: Refer to Appendix XX for suggested meeting locations. EPA will schedule, prepare for, and attend all announced meetings. EPA will provide at least two weeks' notice of the scheduled meeting. The Regional Project Manager, Community Involvement Coordinator, and other appropriate EPA staff will attend.
- Timing: A public meeting is required during the Proposed Plan comment period (see below). EPA will hold other public meetings as appropriate.

Activity 4B: Encourage formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG).

- Objective: To provide citizens with a meaningful way to become actively involved, and to provide the Site Team with a viable means of learning citizen concerns and attitudes.

- Method: EPA will encourage the formation of a CAG and provide support as appropriate to facilitate its formation. If formed, EPA will provide administrative support but will not be an active member.
- Timing: EPA will respond to any requests for help to form a CAG. As necessary, EPA will promote CAGs regularly throughout the Superfund process until one is formed.

Activity 4C: Make informal visits to community.

- Objective: To help keep community members informed about the site, while providing EPA with feedback about site activities and the community's opinions.
- Method: EPA will establish a presence in the community through informal, often unscheduled visits to talk spontaneously with local residents.
- Timing: Throughout the entire Superfund process.

Activity 4D: Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period.

- Objective: To give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various EPA documents, especially the Proposed Plan. This provides the citizens with meaningful involvement in the process and also provides the Site Team with valuable information for use in making decisions.
- Method: EPA will announce each comment period separately. Announcements will appear in local newspapers and EPA fact sheets; they will include particulars on duration, how to make comments, where to submit comments, etc. EPA may solicit comments on the following information/draft documents: draft CIP, draft summary of test results (not individual tests) and initial interpretation, preliminary findings on the RI and a list of possible remedies likely to be considered, preliminary findings of the FS and a brief summary of the leading contender for the proposed remedy, and preliminary plans for implementation and construction.
- Timing: Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the announcement of the Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

Activity 4E: Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary.

- Objective: To summarize comments received during comment periods, to document how the EPA has considered those comments during the decision-making process, and to provide responses to major comments.

- Method: EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as a section of the Record of Decision. The Responsiveness Summary will include four sections: 1. Overview; 2. Background on Community Involvement; 3. Summary of comments received and Agency responses; 4. Remedial Design/Remedial Action concerns. All information, both technical and nontechnical, will be conveyed in a manner that is easily understood.
- Timing: EPA will issue the Responsiveness Summary as part of the Record of Decision.

Activity 4F: Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

- Objective: To identify and address community needs, issues, or concerns regarding the site or the cleanup remedy that are not currently addressed in this CIP.
- Method: The Revised CIP will update the information presented in the previous version of the CIP.
- Timing: EPA will revise the CIP as community concern warrants or at least every three years until the site is closed out.

4.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
Designate an EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)	Bill Little, April 2012
Prepare and distribute site fact sheets and technical summaries	As needed
Involve students, parents, teachers through area schools	As needed, at least annually
Provide a toll-free "800 number" for the community to contact EPA	Currently in operation
Maintain a mailing list for the Site	Ongoing
Establish and maintain Information Repositories	Established, update as needed
Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet	Currently available; update as needed
Provide Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) information	Ongoing
Establish and maintain the Administrative Record	Established, update as needed
Conduct special events	
Hold public meetings	As needed
Encourage formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG)	Ongoing
Make informal visits to community	As needed
Solicit comments during a Public Comment Period	As needed and required
Prepare and issue a Responsiveness Summary	Following public comment periods
Revise the Community Involvement Plan (CIP)	As needed, at least every 3 years

Appendix A EPA Regional Contacts

Shawn Ghose
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6SF-TR)
Tel: (214) 665-6782
Fax: (214) 665-6660
kendrick.bret@epa.gov

Janetta Coats
Technical Assistance Grant Project Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6SF-PO)
Tel: (214) 665-7308
Fax: (214) 665-6660
coats.janetta@epa.gov

Bill Little
Community Involvement Coordinator/SEE
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6SF-VO)
Tel: (214) 665-8131
Fax: (214) 665-6660
little.bill@epa.gov

Donn Walters
Regional Public Liaison
U.S. EPA (6SF-VO)
(214) 665-6483
walters.donn@epa.gov

Appendix B Local Officials

Mayor: Glenn Johnson

City of Port Neches
P. O. Box 758
Port Neches, Texas 77651
(409) 719-4208

City Secretary: Jamie Louvierie

(409) 719-4208
(409) 727-8677

City Manager: Andre Wimer

City Council:

Place 1, Terry Schwertner

Place 2, Roy Hollier

Place 3, John Davenport

Place 4, Don Anglin

Place 5, Julie Gauthier

Port Neches Fire Department

Fire Chief: Steve Curran

1209 Merriman St.
Port Neches, Texas 77651
(409) 722-5885

Police Department

Police Chief: Paul Lemoine
1209 Merriman St.
Port, Neches, Texas 77651
(409) 722-1424

Municipal Court

City Court Judge
Morris McCall
(409) 722-1438

Appendix C State Officials

Governor:

Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
(512) 463-2000
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

One Plaza Square
Suite 203
Port Arthur, TX 77642
Phone: (409) 724-0788

Texas Senate:

District 4

Senator Tommy Williams
CAP GE.7
P.O. Box 12068, Capital Station
Austin, TX 78711
Phone: (512) 463-0104

P.O. Box 8069
The Woodlands, TX 77387
Phone: (281) 364-9426

Texas Representatives:

District 21

Representative Allan Ritter
EXT E2.406
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0706

P.O. Box 1265
Nederland, TX 77627
Phone: (409) 729-3228

District 22

Representative Joe Deshotel
EXT E2.306
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0662

Appendix D

Federal Elected Officials

Senate

Senator John Coryn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2934
Fax: (202) 228-2856

5300 Memorial Drive
Suite 980
Houston, TX 77007
Phone: (713) 572-3337
Fax: (713) 572-3777

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5922

Fax: (202) 224-0776

1919 Smith Street
Suite 800
Houston, TX 77002
Phone: (713) 653-3456
Fax: (713) 209-3459

U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Ted Poe
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6565
Fax: (202) 225-5547

505 Orleans Street
Suite 100
Beaumont, TX 77701
Phone: (409) 212-1997
Fax: (409) 212-8711

Appendix E

Potentially Responsible Parties

Huntsman Petrochemical Corporation
10003 Woodloch Forest Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77380
(281) 719-6000
www.huntsman.com

Chevron Environmental Management Corp.
6001 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583,
USA(925) 842-1000
www.chevron.com

Appendix F Media Contacts

Television Stations:

K09VO Channel 9 Beaumont, TX.

KBTB-TV Channel 4; Port Arthur, TX.

KFDM-TV Channel 6; Beaumont, TX.

KITU Channel 34; Beaumont, TX.

KBMT Channel 12; Beaumont, TX.

KJDF-LP Channel 46; Beaumont, TX.

KUIL-LP Channel 64; Beaumont, TX.

KEBQ-LP Channel 22; Beaumont, TX.

KVHP Channel 29; Lake Charles, LA.

Radio Stations:

FM

KYKR 95.1 FM; Beaumont, TX.

KRWP 97.5 FM; Beaumont, TX.

KIOC 106.1 FM; Orange, TX.

KQXY-FM 94.1 FM; Beaumont, TX.

KCOL-FM 92.5 FM; Groves, TX.

AM

KLVI 560 AM; 5 kW; Beaumont, TX

KDEI 1250 AM; 5 kW; Port Arthur, TX.

KQHN 1510 AM; daytime; 5 kW;
Nederland, TX.

KOLE 1340 AM; 1 kW; Port Arthur, TX.

KTRH 740 AM; 50 kW; Houston, TX.

Newspapers:

Orange Leader
Publisher - Eric Bauer (409) 883-3571
ebauer@cnhi.com
www.orangeleader.com

Port Arthur News
3501 Turtle Creek Dr
Port Arthur, TX 77642
(409) 729-6397

Appendix G Repositories

Repository:

Effie & Wilton Hebert Public Library
2025 Merriman
Port Neches, TX 77651
(409) 722-4554
www.ptn.lib.tx.us

TCEQ Repository:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Records Management Center (213) or (MC-199)
12100 Park Circle, Bldg E
Austin, TX 78753-3087
(800) 633-9363
Hours Open to Public:
Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Appendix H Superfund Process

